Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/23/76

Mr. Dan Schorr
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Lucky fellow -

with a real vacation!

But thanks for your note.

I appreciate it because it was not necessary.

I'm into too much too intensively to have a clear recollection of my letter to MacKenzie.

One of my concerns is that what happened to you, what I've been through in the past without benefit of a fat contract, will chill all the others.

It was visible, I believe, in some of the criticism I found without justification. Not even reasonable.

MacKenzie is a personable, able man. But prior to your misfortune he had not come to realize what had happened to his own perspectives. I face literal perjury from the FBI. I charged and proved it, not only because this was proper and offered a court a chance to do something about it but because if it were credited - as it was - it would force me to what I could not and cannot pay for, an appeal. MacKenzie was actually shocked that I would do this. It isn't done, he chided.

Well, it was done, and as a result I won a sweeping legal victory, fortunately coinciding with a very bad precedent set by the Nader people in an irresponsible suit. And anti-democratic one, in fact.

The government's defense may amuse you: I could make and prove these charges ad infinitim because I know more about the subject than anyone in the FBI.

Ah for the days of M. Cunegonde!

That experience with MacKenzie, for whose reporting I have had considerable respect, is consistent with a long history of legitimate and significant news not being news simply because reporters have come to realize that in the stories there is a danger to their security.

In the non-stories, as of FBI felonies, I see danger to the nation, to freedom.

I've been through your uncertainties, when the danger was greater and I was so much younger and inexperienced. Long ago as this was I do recall. I would persuade you that right and principle are shields and bucklers. The House, I do believe, will leave you alone. I have more than one reason for this belief. One is that they do not want you as a martyr. Another is that there must be some rational spooks. These have to realize they can't stand what could happen. Here much depends on your counsel if I'm wrong but I can help you rend them.

Enjoy,

with good luck,